



February 27, 2023
Lori McAdam
Political Organizer NBRJC

In Support of:

House Bill 5673: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN
TAXES AND TAX EQUITY.

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Lori McAdam and I live in New Britain. I'm a Board Member and Political Organizer with the New Britain Racial Justice Coalition. The NBRJC is a grassroots organization based in New Britain, Connecticut. Our membership is composed of roughly 60 working-class people from the greater New Britain area who want to organize for racial and economic justice, and do so through mutual aid, political education, and community action. We belong to Recovery For All - a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bringing together more than 60 community, faith, and labor organizations.

I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity. As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what we need to live a good life. But instead we have a state where hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, even while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier. . The scale of this crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility, and has the resources to enact policies that provide for Connecticut families.

As a working class mother, I personally feel the impact of the struggle every single day. My story is a little bit different than most. I am a mother of 4 daughters, although I have never been pregnant. My daughters are biologically my nieces, however I have had them since they were born. I myself grew up in the foster care system and I did not want to have them live that same life. The fact that I have to choose between being a good Mom being directly involved in raising my daughters, or working multiple jobs to afford the bare minimum is wrong. Due to the fact that my daughters were exposed to drugs and alcohol during pregnancy, they have many medical and mental health struggles and require a lot of support. I am a hands-on Mom and work very hard on teaching my daughters coping skills to be able to deal with their struggles. I am very much involved with their education and day to day life. I strive to break generational trauma and build a strong family foundation starting with us. I sacrifice a lot because of not being able to work multiple jobs and not wanting to pass them around to different people to watch. This should NEVER have to be a choice. We should be able to work one job and still be able to raise our children.

The cost of childcare is unaffordable in comparison to what minimum wage provides. Parents should not have to choose between working and raising their children. The fact that between the cost of living, food, gas, and day to day



occurrences, most homes need 2 incomes and/or work multiple jobs to afford the basics. This leaves your children to be raised by others and unstable environments because families can not afford to pay the prices for daycare. Children need stability and they need their parent/s present. Simple things like being able to sit down at the dinner table together are lost because parent/s have to work long hours. All of this has our youth raising themselves, or being raised in the streets. We need to do better for them. We need to be able to have the family values that we have lost because of the cost of living. We need to have the village and community back.

We, as Connecticut residents, are suffering from some of the worst racial, economic, and gender inequities in the country. Connecticut has the 5th largest wealth gap in the country. The cost of living is the 8th highest in the country and our economy is one of the worst. While most residents are struggling, the wealthy few are prospering. Since the start of the pandemic, Connecticut's 12 billionaires have seized more than \$15 billion in additional wealth. That's more than \$1 billion apiece. Together, these 12 billionaires are worth a combined total of \$75 billion. Connecticut ranks in the top 5 states with an outsized concentration of extreme wealth. The richest 5 percent of households have average incomes 14.1 times as large as the bottom 20 percent of households.

Our state budgets have underfunded the programs and services our residents need—taking resources away from our communities. The workforce has gotten smaller due to layoffs, privatization and attrition. Through the pandemic we lost even more public employees and even more who have retired since the beginning of 2022.

We as working people pay more than 25% of our annual income in state and local taxes, yet billionaires and multimillionaires pay 6%. Most of the corporations in Connecticut contribute nothing or next to nothing in state and local taxes, yet some of them have more than a billion dollars in federal taxable income. This is backwards and fuels financial and racial inequality. There is a severe racial inequality in income, wealth, housing, education, healthcare and health outcomes, as well as access to public services. This causes us to struggle to have livable, inclusive prosperity and growth in the economy. We need to invest in essential public services, education, health care, housing, and municipal aid. All of Connecticut's residents deserve to have the resources they need to survive and thrive. These proposals are to restore equality, fund essential services, and recover our economy.

We have an unprecedented opportunity - and the resources - to create a state where everyone has good healthcare to lead healthy lives, high quality childcare and schools for their children, a good job to support their families, and a safe place to call home. **I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.**

Thank you,
Lori McAdam
Political Organizer, Board Member NBRJC